

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer. This listing of the claims replaces any prior listings of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating melanoma comprising:
 - a) administering to a host a composition containing a nucleic acid encoding a melanoma-associated tumor antigen such that the host develops an immune response against the tumor antigen; and,
 - b) subsequently administering ~~a therapeutically effective amount of interferon 10 MU/m²/day interferon alpha~~ to the host; whereby the combination of steps a) and b) provides an enhanced T cell response in the host relative to that which occurs following step a) alone.
- 2-3. Cancelled.
4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within a plasmid or a viral vector.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of poxvirus, adenovirus, retrovirus, herpesvirus, and adeno-associated virus.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of vaccinia, NYVAC, MVA, avipox, canarypox, ALVAC, ALVAC(2), fowlpox, and TROVAC.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of NYVAC, ALVAC, and ALVAC(2).
- 8-10. Cancelled.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MART-1/Melan A, gp75/TRP-1, tyrosinase, NY-ESO-1, melanoma proteoglycan, a MAGE antigen, a BAGE antigen, a GAGE antigen, ~~a RAGE antigen, N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase V, p15, β-catenin, MUM-1, cyclin-dependent kinase 4, p21-ras, BCR-abl, p53, p185 HER2/neu, epidermal growth factor receptor, carcinoembryonic antigen, modified carcinoembryonic antigen, carcinoma-associated mutated mucins, an Epstein-Barr Virus EBNA gene product, papilloma virus E7, papilloma virus E6, prostate-specific antigen, prostate~~

~~specific membrane antigen, KSA, kinesin 2, HIP-55, TGF β 1 anti-apoptotic factor, tumor protein D52, H1FT, an NY-BR antigen, a fragments thereof, and a derivatives thereof.~~

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MAGE-1, MAGE-2, MAGE-3, MAGE-4, MAGE-6, MAGE-12, MAGE-51, GAGE-1, GAGE-2, and RAGE-1, ~~NY-BR-1, NY-BR-62, NY-BR-75, NY-BR-85, NY-BRP-87, and NY-BR-96~~.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the tumor antigen is gp100.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises ~~an~~ poxviral vector encoding ~~a~~ the tumor antigen ~~or~~ a fragment thereof ~~and the cytokine is~~ ~~a~~ T-cell activating cytokine.
15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein poxviral vector is an ALVAC vector ~~and the T cell activating cytokine is~~ IFN.
16. Cancelled
17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the ~~T~~-cell activating cytokine interferon alpha is IFN α 2b.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day-IV at least two times per week for at least two weeks.
19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day-IV at least three times per week for at least two weeks.
20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day-IV at least four times per week for at least two weeks.
21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 1 wherein IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day-IV at least five times per week for at least two weeks.
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein IFN α 2b is administered at at least 20 MU/m²/day-IV at least five times per week for at least four weeks.
23. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the tumor antigen is a modified gp100.
24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2).
25. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTV (SEQ ID NO.: 3).

26. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2) and the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTV (SEQ ID NO.: 3).
27. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the administration in step b) is followed by one or more administrations of interferon alpha at a reduced dosage.
28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the reduced dosage is reduced by 33% of the original dosage.